



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/647,849

08/25/2003

Cindy Hadfield

H-00015-001

3687

25179 7590 09/27/2007
A PATENT LAWYER CORP, PLC
R WILLIAM GRAHAM
22 S ST CLAIR ST
DAYTON, OH 45402

EXAMINER

FIELDS, BENJAMIN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3609

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/647,849 | Applicant(s) HADFIELD, CINDY | |
| | Examiner BENJAMIN S. FIELDS | Art Unit 3609 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>25 August 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Examiner acknowledges receipt of the IDS' filed 25 August 2003. Additional misfiled pages appear to be in receipt of this application. As such, the Examiner has only acknowledged consideration of page 6 of the IDS' as filed in this Office.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam (US PG Pub. No. 2003/0074315), [hereinafter Lam] in view of Deluxe (www.deluxe.com), [hereinafter Deluxe].

Referring to Claim 1: Lam teaches an Internet-based check system, including: a client computer system; an Internet-based server having a check order entry user interface remote from and in operable communication with said client computer system (Lam: Abstract; Figures 1-3, #14; Page 2, Paragraphs 0031-0034//Lam shows an Internet-based check system consisting of a client terminal//), wherein said Internet-based server includes software for enabling input at said interface of client data (Lam: Figure 10; Page 6, Paragraph 0061//Lam teaches a system which uses a Internet-based server in order to enable receipt of input at the client terminal device//), and a

Art Unit: 3609

printing station in operable communication with said Internet-based server computer system to print checks bearing said data thereon (Lam: Abstract; Page 1, Paragraphs 0002, 0006-0011, 0014//Lam discloses a system which prints checks to remote locations//).

Lam, however, does not expressly teach an Internet-based check ordering system, including: client check number data, client bank transit number data, client bank account data, and client bank routing data at said check order user interface and has means for transmitting said bank client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data in an encrypted manner; a bank transit number computer system remote from and in operable communication with the Internet-based server computer system having software for receiving at least said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data from said Internet-based server and de-encrypting said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data, and comparing at least said client bank transit number data with a data listing corresponding to transit number data for a plurality of banks within a database of said bank transit number computer system to verify that said client bank transit number corresponds to bank transit data in said database, and transmits to said Internet-based server verified check print data which includes said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data and a predetermined printing orientation.

Deluxe, in a similar environment, discusses an Internet-based check ordering system, including: client check number data, client bank transit number data, client bank

Art Unit: 3609

account data, and client bank routing data at said check order user interface and has means for transmitting said bank client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data in an encrypted manner (Deluxe: Pages I – IV//Deluxe displays a system which allows a user to input a check number associated with a check and financial banking institution as well as account/routing information affiliated with a users account//); a bank transit number computer system remote from and in operable communication with the Internet-based server computer system having software for receiving at least said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data from said Internet-based server and de-encrypting said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data, and comparing at least said client bank transit number data with a data listing corresponding to transit number data for a plurality of banks within a database of said bank transit number computer system to verify that said client bank transit number corresponds to bank transit data in said database (Deluxe: Page II//Deluxe displays a system which employs a terminal unit in order for a user to enter associated account information and performs a verification procedure to verify user//), and transmits to said Internet- based server verified check print data which includes said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, and said client bank routing data and a predetermined printing orientation (Deluxe: Pages I – IV//Upon complete system transaction, a user is able to print the checks as requested//).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to modify the method of Lam by incorporating a feature for ordering checks with the invention of Deluxe in order to

Art Unit: 3609

effectively create an online Internet-based check ordering system as disclosed for the purpose of increasing customer access to personal checks, etc. (Deluxe: Pages I – III).

Referring to Claim 2: Deluxe discusses the limitations as set forth in Claim 1.

Deluxe, however, does not explicitly show an Internet-based check system, wherein software on said Internet-based server includes means for billing a client at said user interface using said system.

Lam discusses an Internet-based check system, wherein software on said Internet-based server includes means for billing a client at said user interface using said system (Lam: Figure 8; Page 2, Paragraph 0017; Page 3, Paragraph 0037; Page 6, Paragraph 0065//Lam shows an Internet-based check server and system where a user is provided with a billing interface//).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to modify the method of Lam by incorporating a feature for ordering checks with the invention of Deluxe in order to effectively create an online Internet-based check ordering system as disclosed for the purpose of increasing customer access to personal checks, etc. (Deluxe: Pages I – III).

Referring to Claim 3: Deluxe teaches the limitations as set forth in Claim 1.

Deluxe, however, does not show an Internet-based check system, wherein said Internet-based server is operably associated with a database which contains and stores said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data and said client bank routing data.

Lam, in a similar environment, expressly states and shows an Internet-based check system, wherein said Internet-based server is operably associated with a

Art Unit: 3609

database which contains and stores said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data and said client bank routing data (Lam: Figures 1-3; Claim 10//Lam shows an Internet-based check system which utilizes a server in conjunction with a database that stores information related to client [user] information//).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to modify the method of Lam by incorporating a feature for ordering checks with the invention of Deluxe in order to effectively create an online Internet-based check ordering system as disclosed for the purpose of increasing customer access to personal checks, etc. (Deluxe: Pages I – III).

Referring to Claim 4: Deluxe discloses the limitations as set forth in Claim 1.

Deluxe, however, does not disclose an Internet-based check system, wherein said Internet-based server is further equipped to associate said received verified check information data from said bank transit number computer system with said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data and said client bank routing data.

Lam teaches an Internet-based check system, wherein said Internet-based server is further equipped to associate said received verified check information data from said bank transit number computer system with said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data and said client bank routing data (Lam: Claims 1-10//Lam describes an Internet-based system where the Internet-based server is capable of associating user check information data//).

Art Unit: 3609

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to modify the method of Lam by incorporating a feature for ordering checks with the invention of Deluxe in order to effectively create an online Internet-based check ordering system as disclosed for the purpose of increasing customer access to personal checks, etc. (Deluxe: Pages I – III).

Referring to Claim 5: Deluxe discloses the limitations as set forth in Claim 1.

Deluxe, however, does not teach an Internet-based check system, wherein said printing station includes a computer which is operably connected to said Internet-based server in a manner to receive said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, said client bank routing data and said verified check print data in an encrypted form and de-encrypts said data to enable printing of said checks.

Lam, in a similar environment, shows an Internet-based check system, wherein said printing station includes a computer which is operably connected to said Internet-based server in a manner to receive said client data, said client check number data, said client bank transit number data, said client bank account data, said client bank routing data and said verified check print data in an encrypted form and de-encrypts said data to enable printing of said checks (Lam: Abstract; Page 1, Paragraphs 0002, 0006-0011, 0014//Lam discloses an Internet-based check system connected in a manner for reception of client data//).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to modify the method of Lam by incorporating a feature for ordering checks with the invention of Deluxe in order to

Art Unit: 3609

effectively create an online Internet-based check ordering system as disclosed for the purpose of increasing customer access to personal checks, etc. (Deluxe: Pages I – III).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Teicher (US Pat. No. 6,076,075) teaches a retail unit and a payment unit for serving a customer on a purchase and method.

Remington et al. (US Pat. No. 6,070,150) show an electronic bill presentment and payment system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Benjamin S. Fields at telephone number 571.272.9734. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, 9am to 7pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi Tran can be reached at (571) 272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 3609

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Benjamin S. Fields

19 September 2007



MATTHEW S. GART
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600